

Message

From: EPAREsearchCompass [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C1E8F11508674C3C954553A1129D33E5-EPARESEARCH]
Sent: 10/27/2015 6:13:17 PM
To: ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c735272eef941588aefd9a05ed28823-ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs]
CC: Lackey, Leila [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d8ab4e3dff0b4efa80fd29a0653f6af9-Lackey, Lei]; lomax, bonnie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f55991bc192747739fc08b7322db5078-Blomax]; Guerry, Jacqueline B [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=66b1753d6334468aa7c7731b615ab959-Jguerry]; frankel, michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=684951a4ac834c90a24d85afce045ddb-Mfrankel]; Landy, Ronald [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=65ae346ac257456eaa3144f63016fb76-Rlandy]
Subject: Weekly Compass: October 27, 2015



Weekly Update: 10/27/2015

Welcome to the Weekly Compass, your gateway to information about recent and upcoming ORD activities. If you have ideas for the Weekly Compass, please send them to the editors. To see each full article on ORD@work, please click on the text that is hyperlinked.

Quick Updates

- Visit OPM's online resource center for up-to-date information regarding the OPM incidents.
- Donate to the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign, go to <http://www.cfcnc.org/>, and click "Donate Now"! Help ORD reach its goal of \$66,896.
- Take the mandatory Records Management training by November 30, 2015: <https://epa.skillport.com/>, while you're doing that you'll notice that we've been upgraded to a new version (Skillport 8), which offers new ways to navigate the system from any computer at any time.
- Adobe Connect URL has changed! Update your links before November 19, 2015.
- Read the latest *"It All Starts with Science"* blog post.

- Upcoming webinars:
 - 2015 Small Systems Webinar Series: Decentralized High-Rate Wastewater Treat of Peak Wet Weather Flows. Registration is open now. Tuesday, October 27, 2-3 pm ET
 - National Disability Employment Awareness Month observance program: "My Disability Is One Part of Who I am." Tuesday, October 27, 1-2 p.m. ET. HQ: U.S. Department of Commerce Auditorium, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. Broadcast on EPAtv*: Tuesday, October 27 at 3 pm ET * *Please note that EPAtv is only available through Internet Explorer while onsite on EPA's network and is not available remotely*
 - SSWR Monthly Webinar: Wednesday, October 28, 12:00-1:00 p.m. ET

In the Lab:

Continued Flint, Michigan Response

NRMRL reviewed the corrosion control plan for Flint's water supply and provided the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) with several recommendations and suggestions related to corrosion control dose, monitoring and testing strategies and preparedness for future challenges. MDEQ is moving ahead with the recommendations and monitoring suggestions provided.

SAB Meeting on Hydraulic Fracturing

On October 28-30, EPA's SAB will meet in Washington, D.C. to review the draft *Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources*. Meeting information can be found [here](#).

Embassy Science Fellow Discusses Climate Change in Australia

NERL scientist Rachelle Duvall, currently detailing as an Embassy Science Fellow, was invited to be a guest scientist at Questacon-The National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra, Australia on October 13. She presented hands-on science activities to over 200 Questacon visitors. A guest appearance was made by former Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, who "gave it a go" and participated in the activities. Duvall also gave a public seminar on climate change that evening at Questacon.



NERL's Rachelle Duvall assembling a particle sensor for visitors to test at Questacon - The National Science and Technology Center in Canberra, Australia on October 13, 2015.

Region 7 Bridgeton Landfill

NRMRL is working with Region 7 on the Bridgeton Landfill subsurface smoldering event. The landfill is adjacent to the West Lake Superfund Site, which contains radiologically contaminated material. NRMRL is finalizing a report for the Region to review, and is analyzing data from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for gas quality and temperature trends in collected gas from gas extraction wells, gas interception wells, and temperature monitoring probes. NRMRL's report is also analyzing data from landfill surface elevation changes.

Biosand Filters in Patillas, Puerto Rico

Last week, as part of a Region 2 RARE Project, NRMRL, R2, InterAmerican University, and extramural contractors installed four biosand filters in the small community of Apeadero in Patillas, Puerto Rico. Out of 247 small Puerto Rican rural communities without access to drinking water from a water utility, only a little more than half use some form of chlorination, and very few use filtration technologies that remove chlorine resistant pathogens. Due to high costs of electricity to pump water, several of these communities have abandoned groundwater sources and reverted to unfiltered surface water, creating serious public health risks and non-compliance. In 2016, EPA plans to install solar panels to transfer and treat surface water. The R2 RARE project will provide the concept for a sustainable water supply using solar power, providing clean and safe drinking water, helping with EJ concerns, and reducing fossil fuel use.

Who's Traveling:

Region 9 Aclima Demo and VERGE Conference

Tomorrow, Jared Blumenfeld (R9 RA) and ACE NPD Dan Costa will participate in an event in San Francisco hosted by Aclima, Inc., a California technology company. The event will highlight an air monitoring study by Aclima, Inc. and Google Inc. in three metropolitan areas in California with mobile air monitoring equipment. Aclima is testing its mobile air sensor technology platform on Google Street View cars in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the Central Valley region and plans to map air pollution in these areas. EPA has a CRADA with Aclima to conduct research to advance air monitoring technology and is providing scientific advice. EPA supported a pilot study in 2014 in Denver by Aclima and Google, and the results are being applied to the new studies in CA.

Dan Costa will also participate with Aclima and Google in a panel discussion on Thursday at the VERGE 2015 conference in San Jose, CA. VERGE is a GreenBiz Group international conference focusing on technologies and systems that accelerate sustainability solutions across sectors in a climate-constrained world. The event will be livestreaming, so [click here](#) to tune in.

NHSRC Presents Research Supporting Radiological Cleanup

NHSRC researcher, Dr. Paul Lemieux, presented research results at the International Conference on Thermal Treatment Technologies & Hazardous Waste Combustors in Houston October 20-22. In the event of a wide-area radiological contamination incident (e.g., dirty bomb, nuclear power accident), significant quantities of biomass (vegetation such as tree, shrubs, grass) may be contaminated with cesium and other nucleotides as was the case in Fukushima. Biomass combustion has the potential to minimize the volume of waste to be managed; however, cesium in combustion systems tends to vaporize and later condense into very small particles that are not effectively caught in particulate control devices. The work has demonstrated cesium capture efficiencies greater than 65%.

Environmental Health Summit

October 26-27, NERL, NHEERL, and NRMRL will participate in the Environmental Health Summit in RTP, North Carolina. The theme of this year's summit is *Safe Water From Every Tap: Where does NC Stand 40 Years After the Safe Drinking Water Act*. The summit convenes community representatives, rural residents, private well owners, environmental justice advocates, municipal officials, public health practitioners and local health departments, state and federal agency representatives, water utilities, and industries to develop recommendations addressing new and old threats to North Carolina's private wells. The goal is to work toward an assurance of safe drinking water for all North Carolinians.

EPA/NIEHS Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Centers: Congressional Event and Annual Meeting

EPA will join its partners from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to highlight the remarkable achievements and ongoing research of their jointly-funded Children's Health Centers at two events next week. First, Representatives Renee L. Ellmers (R-NC) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) will host a congressional event on Wednesday, October 28: *A Healthy Start for Every Child: How the Environment Influences Health & Development*. The event will present information about the newest research related to childhood diseases such as autism, asthma and obesity. Tom Burke will join Linda Birnbaum to give remarks at the event. He will also give remarks at the EPA/NIEHS Children's Centers Annual Meeting, held this Thursday and Friday.

Louisville Biodigester Community Meeting

NRMRL's Steve Rock will attend the Louisville Biodigester Community Meeting on October 29 to discuss biodigestion technology. R4 representatives will also be in attendance. The meeting will be held in West Louisville, where Star BioEnergy is proposing to build an anaerobic biodigester, which would get at least 70% of its materials from the adjacent Heaven Hill Bernheim Distillery, supplemented by food waste. Last September, in response to questions raised about the proposed biodigester, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer called for a 60-day period in which citizens and city leaders could better educate themselves about the science and technology proposed.

International Conference on Neural Tube Defects

NCCT scientist Tom Knudsen is traveling to Austin, TX for the 9th International Conference on Neural Tube Defects. Tom will be presenting an overview of EPA's Virtual Tissues research. Tom's attendance will allow for dissemination of, and feedback on, his work using cutting edge computational models to predict birth defects from world class researchers who have a common goal of preventing neural tube defects such as spina bifida.

In the Office:

Administrator Hosting Town Hall Tomorrow

The past several months have been filled with activity and accomplishments at EPA. Please join Administrator Gina McCarthy on Wednesday, October 28 at 1:00 p.m. EDT for a Town Hall event to celebrate the huge amount of work that has taken place. To participate: in DC join in person in the Green Room at the William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building or remotely via EPAtv*. For those attending in person, please enter through the WJC South entrance no later than 12:45 p.m. EDT. Space is limited and seating is first come, first serve. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the event. If you are unable to participate in person, please send in questions in advance to internalcomms@epa.gov by COB today.

Deadline for Scheduling 2015 "Use or Lose" Leave: November 28, 2015

The leave year for 2015 ends at midnight on January 9, 2016 and any "use or lose" annual leave not taken before January 10, 2016 will be forfeited. The deadline for scheduling the "use or lose" leave for restoration eligibility and obtaining supervisory approval is November 28, 2015.

Employees are encouraged to consider donating annual leave to either the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program or the EPA Voluntary Leave Bank Program. An employee must be a member of the leave bank in order to receive leave. Please direct your questions on leave scheduling and leave forfeiture to the human resources shared service center that services your organization.

Senior Leadership Personnel Announcements

Ken Kopocis, our current Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, will retire in early November, concluding 32 years of public service. With Ken's retirement, Joel Beauvais will assume the role of Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water. As Joel moves to Water, Laura Vaught has agreed to become Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy. Laura is currently the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR), and Nichole Distefano, OCIR's current Deputy Associate Administrator, will assume the role of Acting Associate Administrator for OCIR.

Accolades:

ORD Co-authored Article Selected for Society's Annual Award

An article written by NHEERL's Elizabeth D. Hilborn and UPenn's R. Val Beasley, published in the journal *Toxins* in April, has been selected as the second-place winner of the 2015 Award for Outstanding Research Article in Biosurveillance in the "Impact of Field of Biosurveillance" category by the International Society for Disease Surveillance. "One Health and Cyanobacteria in Freshwater Systems: Animal Illnesses and Deaths Are Sentinel Events for Human Health Risks" highlights the utility of using cyanobacteria-associated animal illnesses and deaths to provide early warnings of the potential for increased human health risks from harmful algal blooms.

ORD Honor Award Ceremony - November 10, Please Register

During this year's ceremony we will be celebrating the honor award recipients, as well as the launch of our Strategic Research Action Plans and Roadmaps for 2016-2019. The ceremony will be held November 10th, 2015 from 1:00-4:00 EST. Employees will have the opportunity to participate in the ceremony via a live broadcast on IPTV. Registration is encouraged in order for there to be an accurate count for refreshments being served, as well as planned attendance count at each site. Ceremonies will be held in the following locations, with receptions immediately following:

- Ada: Ada Main
- Athens: Athens EIA
- Cincinnati: Room 130/138
- Corvallis: LTR Room 182
- Duluth: Dul Conference Room GCI
- Edison: R2NJ.10 Rm Flr2-24p
- Gulf Breeze: Big Sabine
- Las Vegas: Exc Auditorium
- Narragansett: NAR ConRoom-204A and B-AED/Nar-AED-NHEERL
- Newport: Newport Conference Room A-105

- RTP: Auditorium A, B & C
 - Washington DC: Fish Bowl 1 & 2
 - Potomac Yards: PYS 4360, 4370 & 4380
-

In the Community:

Three Days of STEM Outreach

- Today, five ORD scientists will teach 60+ middle school students about air quality and climate change at Umstead State Park in Raleigh, North Carolina. Through interactive, hands-on activities the students will be able to learn about the ability of trees to store carbon, build particle sensors, and understand the impacts of climate change.
- On October 27, EPA-RTP's STEM Outreach Program will participate in two Durham Public School Career Fairs. Five scientists will share their educational and career experiences in environmental science at Northern and Jordan High Schools, two of Durham's largest schools with a combined population of more than 3,500 students. This offers a great opportunity for EPA to inspire the next generation to consider careers in STEM and environmental science.
- On October 28, EPA-RTP's STEM Outreach Program will lead hands-on activities for 120 8th graders at Mills Park Middle School to teach the students about the importance of soil.

NRMRL Student Tour of Ada Lab

On October 21, the Student Board of Directors from Vision Bank in Ada toured RSKERC and were provided with an overview of NRMRL's research. Thirty-two high school students from several area schools and four bank sponsors attended laboratory demonstrations including the General Parameters lab and the scanning electron microscope lab.

Hispanic Engineers National Achievement Awards Conference STEM Career Fair

Andy Miller (ACE Climate Associate) joined John Kemmerer (R9) at the recent HENAAC (formerly Hispanic Engineers National Achievement Awards Conference) STEM career fair in Pasadena, CA on October 17. The career fair was well attended by students from across the country, as well as by numerous government and private sector employers. The students who stopped by the EPA table showed a high level of interest in working with EPA, and particularly in summer positions and internships.

Photo of the Week



Tina Bahadori, CSS NPD, discussing nano copper research with NHEERL WED staff.